

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

September 6, 2002

1. **DNR names four new managers**
2. **First state loan made to upgrade private septic system**
3. **Public comment meetings held for ammonia and hydrogen sulfide standards**
4. **October public comment meetings for air monitoring procedures**
5. **Air unhealthy for sensitive groups Sunday in Clinton**
6. **DNR enforcement actions**
7. **EPA Region 7 states get \$1.6 million to help share data**
8. **Public comment period extended for Iowa's impaired waters list**
9. **Advisory posted at Rock Creek Lake; George Wyth remains closed; advisories remain at Prairie Rose and Beeds**
10. **EPC will address confinement siting matrix Sept. 16 at Clear Lake**

DNR NAMES FOUR NEW MANAGERS

DES MOINES — The DNR has named four new managers under the department's restructuring plan.

Tim Hall has been named the bureau chief of the Land Quality/Geologic Survey Bureau. Tim has a master's degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and is a registered engineer in Iowa. Hall was a senior project engineer for seven years at Foth and Van Dyke in Des Moines and has worked extensively with landfill projects as well as other projects for the firm. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Drake University and spent a year with the DNR in the late 1980s. Hall begins work in October.

Catharine Fitzsimmons is the new chief of the DNR's Air Quality Bureau. Fitzsimmons has 10 years experience in air quality, serving as planning section supervisor overseeing budget, rules and dispersion modeling. She also served as interim director for former chief Pete Hamlin, who retired in January.

Fitzsimmons was born in Ithaca, N.Y., and holds a bachelor's degree in plant science from Cornell University in New York. She holds a master's degree in public administration from Iowa State University. Fitzsimmons moved to Iowa in 1984, and before working at the DNR, she was crop curator at the USDA's plant introduction station

in Ames.

Brian Tormey, a 13-year DNR veteran, was named chief of the department's re-organized Energy and Waste Management Bureau in July. Tormey began his DNR career with the water supply section, shifting to waste management assistance in 1992. Since then, he has been involved with comprehensive planning, waste reduction and assistance, and improving services to the regulated community.

Tormey has served as chief of the department's Waste Management Assistance Bureau for the past three years.

Marian Maas has accepted the position supervising the newly formed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)/Water Quality Assessment Section in the Water Quality Bureau. The section will have the responsibility of assessing water quality in the state and developing pollution control plans for water bodies on Iowa's impaired waters list required under the Clean Water Act.

Maas serves as coordinator of the Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership in Omaha. She has a doctorate in cell biology and anatomy, a master's degree in biology, and a bachelor's degree in education. She will assume her new duties later this month.

For more information, contact Ross Harrison at (515) 281-5973, or by e-mail at ross.harrison@dnr.state.ia.us.

FIRST STATE LOAN MADE TO UPGRADE PRIVATE SEPTIC SYSTEM

Iowa's first investment from a new environmental program has been buried in a Tama County yard and it is hoped that it will be just the first installment of a program expected to yield high dividends for the environment.

When it comes to the issue of faulty septic systems, the best-spent money fixing the problem occurs underground. New septic systems are needed on an estimated 100,000 rural homes across the state where existing systems are not functioning properly.

"Many of these inadequate systems were installed between the 1920s and 1960s and are connected directly to farm tile contributing pollution directly to streams. We've even had some that have been connected to ag drainage wells that go directly into groundwater sources," according to Steve Hopkins, an environmental specialist for the DNR.

The first private septic system utilizing low interest loans from a state revolving loan fund has been installed at a rural residence near Toledo in Tama County. The new system for the three-bedroom house includes a 1,250-gallon concrete septic tank and lateral lines with a combined length of 300-feet designed for secondary treatment of household wastewater capable of destroying harmful bacteria and viruses. The new system replaced

an old metal septic tank that had collapsed and was connected directly to a tile line along with a separate line that dumped wastewater from the washing machine directly into the road ditch.

The new system in Tama County cost approximately \$4,900 and was made possible through a new program boasting partnerships in both the public and private sectors. Using money from state appropriations and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the revolving loan fund is administered by the Iowa DNR through partnerships with county governments, local banks and local contractors.

There are currently nine private on-site systems totaling approximately \$55,000 that have been approved for the low interest loans of 3 percent annual interest or less under the new program.

Iowa's Onsite Wastewater Loan Program is only for existing homes with inadequate waste treatment systems. Eligible homeowners first contact the appropriate agency in their home county to get an on-site system construction permit. Bids are then obtained from contractors and loans are applied for through participating local lenders. There are currently 82 county environmental health programs in Iowa participating in the onsite loan program.

Interested homeowners should contact their county sanitarian or environmental health department for an onsite system construction permit and then obtains bids from septic contractors for an approved onsite system. County sanitarians should have information on participating lenders to apply for a loan.

For more information, contact Steve Hopkins at (515) 725-0346.

PUBLIC COMMENT MEETINGS HELD FOR AMMONIA AND HYDROGEN SULFIDE STANDARDS

DES MOINES — The DNR is offering public comment opportunities on draft rules that establish air quality standards for hydrogen sulfide and ammonia.

The draft rules establish outdoor air quality standards set to protect human health for hydrogen sulfide and ammonia. The proposed hydrogen sulfide standard is 15 parts per billion (ppb) for a one-hour average at a residence or public use area. The proposed ammonia standard is 150 ppb for a one-hour average also at a residence or public use area. Both rules allow regulated agencies to exceed the standards up to seven times annually to accommodate various waste handling procedures and associated emissions from animal feeding operations. Enforcement shall not occur prior to December 1, 2004, as stipulated by the Legislature.

The outdoor air standards would apply statewide and are not restricted to air quality adjacent animal feeding operations.

The proposal is based on recommendations made by Iowa State University and the University of Iowa in the Iowa Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Air Quality Study presented last February.

Draft rules are located at www.iowacleanair.com.

An informational meeting will be held 3:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. on September 11 at the DNR's air quality offices located at 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. DNR staff will be available to answer questions.

Four public hearings will be held. Locations include:

Spencer

September 17 at 7 p.m. in Room 108A of the Iowa Lakes Community College's Gateway North Center, located at 1900 North Grand Avenue.

Atlantic

September 24 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Iowa Western Community College, located at 906 Sunnyside Lane.

Mason City

September 30 at 7 p.m. at the North Iowa Area Community College's Muse-Norris Center, located at 500 College Drive.

Urbandale

October 2 at 7 p.m. in the conference rooms of the Urbandale Public Library, located at 3520 86th Street.

Either oral or written comments are accepted during the public hearings. Written comments can be sent to Bryan Bunton, DNR Air Quality Bureau, 7900 Hickman Road, Suite 1, Urbandale, IA 50322 or bryan.bunton@dnr.state.ia.us or faxed to 515-242-5094. All comments must be received no later than October 4, 2002.

OCTOBER PUBLIC COMMENT MEETINGS FOR AIR MONITORING PROCEDURES

DES MOINES—The DNR is holding a series of public meetings to allow Iowans to comment on proposed rules set to establish technical air monitoring techniques for hydrogen sulfide and ammonia.

The draft rules establish an Ambient Air Sampling Manual containing monitor siting requirements, data handling procedures, approved monitoring methods and equipment and quality assurance requirements for determining compliance with proposed hydrogen sulfide and ammonia standards.

The proposed manual was established with input from a technical advisory group consisting of stakeholders and experts in air monitoring instruments and methods. There was consensus among the group that the proposed measurement methods represent the best currently available monitoring methods.

Public Comment Locations:

Spencer

October 8, 2002 at 7 p.m. Room 108A of the Iowa Lakes Community College Gateway North Center, 1900 North Grand Avenue.

Urbandale

October 15, 2002 at 7 p.m. Urbandale Public Library, 3520 86th Street.

Atlantic

October 16, 2002 at 7 p.m. Iowa Western Community College conference room, 906 Sunnyside Lane.

Mason City

October 23, 2002 at 7 p.m. at North Iowa Area Community College Muse-Norris Center, 500 College Drive.

Written comments can be sent to Bryan Bunton, DNR Air Quality Bureau, 7900 Hickman Road, Suite 1, Urbandale, IA 50322 or bryan.bunton@dnr.state.ia.us or faxed to 515-242-5094. Comments will be accepted between September 18 and November 1, 2002.

AIR UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS SUNDAY IN CLINTON

DES MOINES-The DNR reported today that Sunday's air quality in Clinton reached unhealthy levels for sensitive groups due to elevated particulate matter, but levels have since returned to normal conditions.

This is the second day this summer with unhealthy air in Clinton after ozone smog caused unhealthy air in June across portions of Iowa.

Sunday's pollution levels measured 102, considered unhealthy for sensitive groups such as asthmatics under the national Air Quality Index (AQI), which reports pollution levels using a color-coded and numerical range for pollutants. The higher the AQI, the poorer the air quality.

Particulate matter is a generic name used to describe small bits of solid materials, liquid droplets, or aerosols in the outdoor air.

Particulates originate from many sources such as soots from fly ash, carbon black, automobile and diesel exhaust and smoke from burning of wood, leaves, garbage and debris. Sulfur and nitrogen oxide gases can react to create liquid or solid particles too, depending on the air chemistry, time of year, and weather.

An AQI of 1 to 50 is green or good, 51 to 100 is yellow or moderate, 101 to 150 is orange or unhealthy for sensitive groups, 151 to 200 is red, unhealthy for everyone. Rarely used in the nation are purple for very unhealthy (201 to 300) and maroon for hazardous (301 to 500.)

Iowans can obtain air quality reports at www.iowacleanair.com.

For more information, contact Brian Button at (515) 281-7832, or by e-mail at brian.button@dnr.state.ia.us.

DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- Doug Wedemeyer of Casey was ordered to pay a \$2,500 penalty; to comply with minimum manure control requirements and submit recommendations from Iowa State University Extension regarding structural and/or operational changes with proposed schedule of implementation.
- Robert Salter of Logan voluntarily agreed to revocation of his water treatment and wastewater treatment operator certifications for allegedly falsifying records.
- City of Panora was ordered to retain a certified water treatment operator by Jan. 1, 2003 or pay a penalty of \$500 a month for not meeting the deadline.
- City of Kent was ordered to install a centralized sewer system or upgrade individual waste disposal systems to meet current standards.
- City of Thayer was ordered to install a centralized sewer system or upgrade individual waste disposal systems to meet current standards.
- City of College Springs was ordered to install a centralized sewer system or upgrade individual waste disposal systems to meet current standards.
- City of Mt. Pleasant was ordered to pay a \$1,000 penalty and to comply with sewage sludge disposal requirements including record keeping, reporting and disclosure requirements.
- College Pro Painters of Des Moines was ordered to pay a \$10,000 penalty, cease prohibited discharges, amend its training plan for franchise managers and paint crews and provide a list of managers with location and contact information.
- Lehigh Portland Cement of Mason City was ordered to pay a \$300 penalty and comply with sampling and reporting requirements relating to a public drinking water supply.
- Worth County and Worth County Engineer was ordered to pay a \$750 penalty; stop any and all illegal burning activity; cease any and all improper dumping, depositing

or permitting dumping or depositing on county burn pile and to dispose of all solid waste and landscaping waste properly.

- Mitchell County and Mitchell County engineer was ordered to pay a \$750 penalty; stop any and all illegal burning activity; cease any and all improper dumping, depositing or permitting dumping or depositing on county burn pile and to dispose of all solid waste and landscaping waste properly.
- City of Swan was ordered to install and properly maintain and monitor continuous water disinfection facilities and to retain a properly certified treatment operator.
- City of Osage was ordered to install and properly maintain and monitor continuous water disinfection facilities.

For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395, or by e-mail at kevin.baskins@dnr.state.ia.us.

EPA REGION 7 STATES GET \$1.6 MILLION TO HELP SHARE DATA

KANSAS CITY — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska grants totaling more than \$1.6 million to share environmental data over the Internet.

EPA Region 7 Administrator Jim Gulliford, in Kansas City, Kan., said he was pleased that each of the four states in Region 7 had pursued the grants and developed the plans necessary to qualify. Gulliford said the state grant program will help EPA, states and other partners exchange environmental information and use consistent data.

“Each of the state environmental agencies in Region 7 has made a commitment to consolidate environmental data, simplify industry reporting requirements and provide the public with meaningful, real-time access to environmental information on the Internet,” Gulliford said. “These grants will help them and us achieve those goals.”

Iowa and Kansas were each awarded \$500,000 “One Stop” grants to continue their work. The One Stop grants are awarded to states that have already committed significant resources to data management and reporting improvements. Missouri and Nebraska were each awarded \$338,944 Readiness grants to foster network participation.

The grant funds will be used for projects that promote:

- Exchanging environmental information with other states and partners using common formats.
- Integrating different types of data within states, including air, water, waste and toxics.

- Reconciling inconsistencies between different data reporting sources.
- Creating a single node (one central computer network location for exchanging environmental information) to submit data to EPA Headquarters.

The grants are part of \$25 million in environmental information grants to 44 states, 17 tribes and one U.S. territory to work with EPA in developing the National Environmental Information Exchange Network.

For more information, contact Dale Armstrong at (913) 551-7003, or by e-mail at armstrong.dale@epa.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED FOR IOWA'S IMPAIRED WATERS LIST

DES MOINES — The public comment period for Iowa's impaired waters list has been extended until Oct. 11.

The original deadline for submitting comments on the impaired waters list required by Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act was Sept. 19. The DNR, in response to requests from citizens and organizations in the state, has extended the deadline.

The list prepared by the Iowa DNR includes 159 waterbodies.

Public comments will be accepted on the the draft list until Oct. 11, 2002, after which, the list will be finalized and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) by Nov. 1.

EPA must either approve or disapprove the list and if disapproved, U.S. EPA must promulgate the list. Comments may be sent to the address below:

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Water Quality Bureau - Attn: TMDL Program
502 E 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395, or by e-mail at kevin.baskins@dnr.state.ia.us.

ADVISORY POSTED AT ROCK CREEK LAKE; GEORGE WYTH REMAINS CLOSED; ADVISORIES REMAIN AT PRAIRIE ROSE AND BEEDS

DES MOINES — A swimming advisory for the beach at Rock Creek Lake in Jasper County has been posted. Advisories at Prairie Rose State Park in Shelby County and

Beeds Lake in Franklin County remain in place. The beach at George Wyth State Park in Black Hawk County remains closed

All four of the beaches currently experiencing problems are being investigated by the DNR for potential sources of bacteria. Additional monitoring is being done throughout the lake and watersheds at Rock Creek Lake and Beeds Lake. A similar expansion of monitoring is scheduled to begin next week at Prairie Rose.

The Geological Survey Bureau and the DNR's field office in Manchester are currently investigating the problem at George Wyth. Additional monitoring there has determined that the problem is coming from one centralized portion of the beach and the investigation is continuing to try and determine why. Bacteria levels at Iowa's 30 other state park beaches are within acceptable levels.

Signs warning the public that swimming is not recommended are posted at Rock Creek, Prairie Rose and Beeds.. People can still use the beaches there including for swimming, but the risk of bacterial infection or disease is considered to be higher because bacteria levels have averaged more than U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines for fecal coliform bacteria over a 30-day period of time.

For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395 or Mary Skopec, 319-335-1575.

EPC WILL ADDRESS CONFINEMENT SITING MATRIX SEPT. 16 AT CLEAR LAKE

DES MOINES – The Environmental Protection Commission will receive information on a draft rule that lists factors counties can use to accept or reject specific sites for large confinement facilities at its regular meeting Sept. 16 in Clear Lake.

The regular meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Lakeview Community Center, Band Shell City Park. Public participation is scheduled for 10 a.m., and at 1 p.m. Dr. John Downing of Iowa State University will present recommendations from the Clear Lake Diagnostic and Feasibility Study. The meeting is open to the public.

Commissioners will not be discussing two demands for a public hearing, but will be asked to schedule a separate meeting to hear comments on two draft construction permits for animal feeding operations:

a proposed confinement facility, Natural Pork Production II, in Adair County and a proposed expansion of the Fremont Farm facility in Poweshiek County.

Commissioners will also tour the lake on Sept. 15 at 4:30 p.m., meeting at the Lake Patrol office, 15398 Crane Street, for a boat tour.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approve Agenda

- Approve Minutes of July 22, 2002
- Director's Remarks
- Hearing Demands - Need for Special Meeting
- Contract - Energy Nexus Group - Streamlining Siting and Permitting of Combined Heat and Power Systems
- Notice of Intended Action - Chapter 107 - Beverage Container Deposits
- Final Rule - Chapter 60 - Scope of Title-Definitions-Forms-Rules of Practice, Chapter 62 - Effluent and Pretreatment Standards, Chapter 63 - Monitoring, Analytical and Reporting Requirement
- Final Rule - Chapter 60 - Scope of Title-Definitions-Forms-Rules of Practice, Chapter 64 -Wastewater Construction and Operation Permits
- Proposed Contested Case Decision - Crestwood Acres and Blairs Ferry Manor
- Proposed Contested Case Decision - M.A. Inc
- Referrals to the Attorney General
- Pat Snood, Honey Creek Campground
- M-F Real Estate, Inc and Fred Butch Levell
- Proposed Rule - Chapter 65 - Animal Feeding Operations (amendments to definitions; minimum separation distances for land application of manure and construction of confinement feeding operation structures; collection of annual compliance fee; submission of annual manure management plan updates; the site inspection and construction permit application review process; and amendment of Table 6)
- Proposed Rule - Chapter 65 - Animal Feeding Operations (Adoption of Master Matrix)
- Proposed Rule – Chapter 117, Requirements for Waste Tire Facilities
- Proposed Rule – Chapter 2, Public Records and Fair Information Practices
- Proposed Rule – Chapter 7, Contested Case Rules (Adoption by reference of Director's amendments)
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
- Items for the Next Meeting

The members of the commission are Kathryn Murphy, Chair, LeMars; Terrance Townsend, Newton; James Braun, Latimer; Lisa Davis-Cook, West Des Moines; Rita Venner, Breda; Gary C. Priebe, Algona; Darrell Hanson, Manchester; J. Kelly Tobin, New Market and Lori Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

For more information, contact Karen Grimes, at (515) 281-5135, or by e-mail at karen.grimes@dnr.state.ia.us.